IN THE CLAIMS

1. – 9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) A method of ~~improving treatment outcome or reducing risk of treatment for~~ treating symptoms associated with a disease or condition, comprising:

assessing treatment options for treatment of a disease or condition in a subject;

measuring the level of activation of white blood cells in a subject with the disease or condition by assays that measure one or more of the level of free radical production, pseudopod formation, adhesion molecule expression and degranulation;

determining if the level of activation if elevated;

if the level of cell activation is elevated, administering activation lowering therapy comprising administration of a protease inhibitor prior to commencing treatment for the disease or condition or with treatment for the disease or condition, thereby improving treatment outcome or reducing risk of the treatment for the disease or condition; and

administering treatment for the symptoms associated with the disease or condition.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the disease or condition treated is selected from cardiovascular disease, inflammatory disease, trauma, autoimmune diseases, arthritis, diabetes and diabetic complications, stroke, ischemia and Alzheimer's disease.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the treatment for the disease or condition is surgery, treatment of unstable angina or treatment for trauma.

14. (Canceled).

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~14~~ 10, wherein:

~~the cell activation lowering therapy comprises administering a protease inhibitor;~~

~~and~~

the protease inhibitor is a serine protease inhibitor.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~14~~ 10, wherein the protease inhibitor is selected from among α_1-proteinase inhibitor (α_1-antitrypsin), α_2-macroglobin, inter-α_1-trypsin inhibitor, and α_1-antichymotrypsin.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 10, wherein the disease or condition is selected from the group consisting of myocardial infarction, stroke, hemorrhagic shock, diabetic retinopathy, diabetes and venous insufficiency.

18. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the protease inhibitor is 6-amidino-2-naphthyl p-guanidinobenzoate dimethanesulfonate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, acid, ester and other derivatives thereof.

19 – 31. (Canceled).

32. (Currently amended) A method of treating symptoms associated with a disease or condition, comprising:

testing cell activation level of white blood cells in a subject by assays that measure one or more of the level of free radical production, pseudopod formation, adhesion molecule expression and degranulation;

determining if the level is elevated; ~~and,~~ and

if the white blood cell activation level is elevated, administering or undertaking cell activation lowering therapy comprising administration of a protease inhibitor to lower the level of cell activation, thereby ~~preventing a disease or disorder or~~ reducing the risk of a poor outcome of a treatment of a disease or disorder.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 32, wherein activation lowering therapy comprises modifications in diet and/or lifestyle.

34. (Canceled).

35. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~34~~ 32, wherein the protease inhibitor is a serine protease inhibitor.

36. (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein the protease inhibitor is selected from among α_1-proteinase inhibitor (α_1-antitrypsin), α_2-macroglobin, inter-α_1-trypsin inhibitor, and α_1-antichymotrypsin.

37. (Canceled).

38. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 32, wherein activation lowering therapy comprises dialysis.

39. – 40. (Canceled).

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the protease inhibitor is 6-amidino-2-naphthyl p-guanidinobenzoate dimethanesulfonate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, acid, ester and other derivatives thereof.

42. (Canceled).